

Governor-Elect James M. Cox

Will Protect the Workingmen's Compensation Act and Amend It As Requested By the Ohio State Federation of Labor.—He Will Advocate Reforms In Tax Laws and a Measure to Stop Intimidation of Voters.

Washington. — Governor-elect James M. Cox, while here this week, outlined the salient features of a legislative program which he hopes to have the next session of the Ohio Assembly enact into law.

With the Legislature safely in the hands of the Democrats, the Governor-elect indicated complete confidence in the success of this program. While laws dealing with taxation are frequently political dynamite, Cox expressed clearly his belief that a reform in these statutes is imperative, and that the Legislature, in what he hopes will be a short, busy session, should put its hand to this task promptly.

"One of the big problems the Legislature must face is relief for municipalities," said Cox. "With the limitations of the Smith 1 per cent law on the one hand and apparent insufficient revenue on the other, some of the large cities, and small ones as well, have been unable to provide for perfectly natural development."

Absent Voters' Law Favored.

"There is a demand for an absent voters' law and a sustaining public opinion for it as well."

"Recent developments seem to suggest the necessity for the passage of a corrupt practices law written in words that will be both plain and effective. In addition to this there will be considered beyond

question the passage of a law putting an end to intimidation or attempted intimidation of voters. Privately owned government in this country is at an end. Processes of government must come from an unbridled human intelligence. The great masses of our voters can do their own thinking. Any trespass upon the rights of labor in this respect is not only subversive of good government, but it is too odious in the eyes of men to be continued."

"The Democratic party has convinced honest business there is nothing in our policies injurious to the best interests of the country, and dishonest business will be taught that the public has a concept of governmental morals which suggests somewhat radical departures from the ways of old."

As To Compensation Act.

"Inasmuch as the issue was clean-cut in the campaign with reference to taking the activities of liability insurance companies entirely out of the administration of the workmen's compensation law, this must and will be done, not only as a matter of good faith, but as a certain guarantee of the preservation of the law. This is not prompted by any doctrine of government ownership. It is purely an evolutionary necessity. The basic principle of the law is that there must be a guardianship or trusteeship for the widow and orphan of the killed workman and a protection for the injured."

"If government is in fact a thing of and for the people, then it reflects their mental attitude toward subjects of this nature; therefore, it is safe to assume the state can meet this sacred function better than any liability insurance company. It will not work a great injury to these companies because what they lose in workmen's compensation business they gain by the opening up of a vast new zone of opportunity in the way of accident and automobile insurance, etc. But the basic thought behind the whole thing is that the workmen's compensation law and the principles upon which it was built must be preserved at all costs. It must be made bullet proof."

"A reactionary administration brings at least this compensation: That it develops what a hostile administration can do to a progressive law that has not been defined by experience."

In the discussion of proposed tax reforms, especially for cities, Cox left the impression that he believes that municipalities should be completely free to handle their own financial affairs. Whether the State Constitution permits complete local self-government in this respect appears to be open to question. It is manifest that if some of the cases now in Ohio Courts affecting tax laws were to be decided before the meeting of the Assembly the situation would be simplified to a degree.

WILL STRIKE IF 8-HOUR LAW IS NOT LIVED UP TO

Railways Warned by Head of Trainmen's Brotherhood—William G. Lee Notifies Railroad Representatives.

New York.—Failure of the railroads of the country to live up to the spirit and intent of the Adamson eight-hour law will result in the strike vote of the four big railroad brotherhoods being put into effect, it was announced here today by William G. Lee, head of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, after a three-hour conference between brotherhood and railway representatives.

The conference was called to discuss and, if possible, reach some agreement or conclusion as to working out the provisions of the law, which goes into effect January 1. The strike vote referred to by Mr. Lee is that taken prior to the conferences between the railroad and brotherhood heads and President Wilson, which was followed by the passage of the Adamson law after the brotherhoods had threatened to put the vote into effect at that time.

The brotherhoods' representatives said they had worked out an interpretation of the eight-hour law, but they had refused to divulge it for the reason that the roads, or some of them, had announced their decision to fight it through injunctions.

"A strike vote is still in effect," said Mr. Lee, "and if the railroads do not live up to the very spirit and intent of the law in accordance with their agreement, there is no reason why the brotherhood should not take advantage of their strongest card. This time there is nothing that can stop them."

Mr. Lee added that any attempt at subterfuge by the railroads in placing in effect the eight-hour law, will be met with instant action by the brotherhoods.

MAYOR IS PATRIOTIC.

Persons having business with Mayor Craig, of Covington, Ky., recently were confronted upon entering his office with a display of American flags surrounding a portrait of President Wilson. It being well known that Mayor Craig was an ardent supporter of Charles Hughes in the presidential race, queries of why the display were replied to by the Mayor: "That is my President."

SCARED CHICKEN TRUST.

New York.—The high cost of chickens in New York has been reduced by seven cents a pound as a result of the voluntary dissolution of the so-called Poultry Trust. It was announced during the past week at the District Attorney's office, which investigated the recent jump in prices and threatened prosecution under the state anti-trust law.

WILL SEEK INDICTMENTS.

Chicago.—Indictments against a large number of wholesale grocers, cold storage warehouse men, shippers and produce dealers, charging combinations to increase food prices, will be asked from the Federal Grand Jury when it convenes here Monday, United States District Attorney Clynne announced today.

FIGHT REOPENS TO GIVE HOME RULE FOR CITY

A movement for a home rule charter for Cincinnati is to be started by the City Club in the next few weeks.

The club plans to ask other organizations to co-operate with it in the naming of candidates for charter commissioners.

The main argument will be the 35-cent gas rate ordinance. Though the people of Cincinnati plan to veto the ordinance by referendum, the public utilities commission at Columbus will have the final say as to what Cincinnati shall pay for gas.

If Cincinnati had a home rule charter it could say what it will pay for gas or electricity or street car rides without a decision from Columbus.

Profiting by the defeat of the first charter, backers of the new charter movement believe the new charter should not provide for radical changes in the form of the city's government.

One of the causes contributing to the defeat of the first charter was the fact it provided for a small council. It is believed the next charter should allow the machinery of government to remain as it is and to lay greatest stress on home rule.

Once they had a home rule charter the people could make whatever changes they desired in the governmental machinery later on.

HITCHENS SELECTED.

Edwin L. Hitchens has been elected a member of the state executive committee of the Socialist party. Alfred Wagenknecht, of Cleveland, has been chosen secretary to succeed O. G. Van Schoyck of Columbus.

TO CALL ON PRESIDENT.

Baltimore, Md., Nov. 15.—The convention of the American Federation of Labor today voted to adjourn at 1 o'clock Saturday afternoon in order to go to Washington in a body to call on President Wilson.

LEGISLATION IN PROSPECT.

Columbus, O.—An eight-hour day for women workers will be among the proposals to the General Assembly. The new administration will favor an amendment to the workmen's compensation law preventing competition by private companies. Many features of the Parrett-Whittemore act will be changed. Financial relief for cities and possible amendment of the Smith act will be considered. The Case road law will need several amendments. State Auditor Danahey wants some accounting legislation.

AL. LANE ELECTED.

Al V. Lane was elected president of the Cincinnati chapter of the International Alliance Bill Posters and Billers Sunday. The following other officers were elected: Vice president, Harry Richardson; treasurer, Harry Joseph; secretary, Tom Corby; sergeant-at-arms, Clayton Walker; Central Labor Council delegates, Willard Chaplin, Harry Joseph, Al V. Lane, Al Linnemann and Thomas Bradley.

WHITE, OF THE DRYS

Says We Would Have Had to Vote on the Wet and Dry Issue This Year Only It Might Have Hurt Willis.

Columbus, O.—Superintendent James A. White, of the Antisaloon League, intimated that the trustees of the league will probably decide to submit prohibition next year. The general understanding that it was not brought up this year was for fear that the candidacies of a number of men, like Governor Willis, would suffer. Scrutiny of the reports from other states give no indication of a pronounced change of sentiment, and it is difficult to see how Ohio can be shifted into the dry column after what California and Missouri did. Either is less of an industrial commonwealth than Ohio. The threat of liberal Republicans to join the dry cause is treated as a bit of levity here by the wise ones. They will be back in their usual haunts soon, it is said, and will reciprocate if favors are shown them by the liberals.

Especially is there sardonic laughter over that shrill squeaking of the Cincinnati Republicans because it is recognized generally that the liquor traffic in that city is the mainstay of the Hamilton County organization.

"One characteristic has come to us with renewed force during the campaign," United States Senator Warren G. Harding said today. "The primary for state-wide nomination is a disappointment and failure, and it is not a real reformation in the district and county. It has tended to lower the standard of nominations, it has entrenched the bosses more strongly than ever in the localities where bosses are given to ruling; it has given us an excess of political activity and added unbearably to the expense of standing for office."

"What we ought to do in Ohio, and in all the country, is to go back to the delegate convention, with the selection of the precinct representatives made in a primary under the safeguards of our election officers. This would give us a people's rule in representative form without any of the abuses which led to the attempt to reforms which has proved so disappointing."

"Let us hope that Ohio Republicans who shared in the victory of Governor Willis of two years ago will be better sports than to hang onto places where they are not wanted when Governor-elect Cox starts his machine again. There is nothing gained in accentuating the travesty of Civil Service as it is worked nowadays."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Make John Schwaab Chairman of the Meeting to Declare Hamilton County Dry

Incidentally, and because it belongs here, there is a story out that at the end of his term Governor Willis is going on the lecturing platform and is now making lyceum and chautauqua engagements for 1917. This is interesting because of the dark and depressing rumor that he is to take the stump, so to speak, under the auspices of the Anti-Saloon League, like Governor J. Frank Hanly, of Indiana, and Governor Malcolm Patterson, of Tennessee, and jump into the expected fight for prohibition in this State next year. In recent speeches Willis has given intimations of having prepared some "sob stuff" out of his experience in the Governor's office, and is said to be very fetching in that part of his description of the ravages of rum when drunk as a beverage and not used after shaving.

By all means the League ought to bill him in Cincinnati, where he never appeared as a candidate during his whole term, and it should arrange to have him introduced by Chairman Charles Hornberger, of the Republican County Committee, Hon. Peter W. Durr, of the State Central Committee, or Rudolph K. Hynicka, of the Republican National Committee. The meeting ought to be held in Central Turnverein Hall, and the arrangements should be under the auspices of the Schwabische Unterstuetzungs Gesellschaft.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

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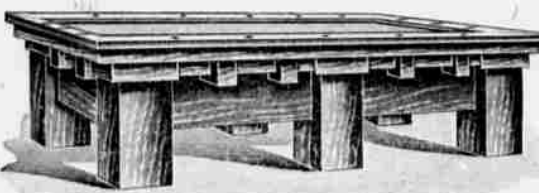
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